

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 00561 251731Z  
ACTION SS-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5806

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 0561

LIMDIS

USEEC

FOR UNDERSECRETARY COOPER

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC DA

SUBJ: EC COUNCIL MEETINGS

REF: A) STATE 11349; (B) COPENHAGEN 276

1. ON JAN 24 I RELAYED YOUR MESSAGE (REF A) TO PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY ERSBOLL, WHO EXPRESSED HIS THANKS AND SAID THAT HE WELCOMED THE OPPORTUNITY FOR ON-GOING CONSULTATIONS WITH YOU ON COMMUNITY MATTERS.

2. ERSBOLL ALSO GAVE ME THE FOLLOWING RUNDOWN ON THE TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR THE EC COUNCIL MEETING SLATED FOR FEB 7, NOTING THAT SOME OF THE ITEMS MIGHT BE DROPPED OR OTHERS ADDED BEFORE THE FINAL AGENDA IS SET:

A. EC RELATIONS WITH JAPAN - ERSBOLL DID NOT ELABORATE ON THIS TOPIC OTHER THAN TO SAY THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE EC TO LOOK CAREFULLY AT ITS TRADE RELATIONSHIPS WITH JAPAN.

B. NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE - ERSBOLL SAID THAT THIS ITEM WILL APPEAR  
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PAGE 02 COPENH 00561 251731Z

ON THE AGENDA ONLY IF THE GERMANS MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THEY ARE READY FOR MEANINGFUL DISCUSSION; IE, "ARE WILLING TO WORK TOWARD DECISIONS ABOUT WHERE WE SHOULD GO AND WHAT WE SHOULD DO AND NOT JUST IDLY DISCUSS WORDING OF POLICY STATEMENTS".

C. PREPARATION OF GREECE ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS - ERSBOLL IS HOPEFUL THAT THE COUNCIL WILL APPROVE THE FIRST MANDATE FOR THE COMMISSION TO UNDERTAKE NEGOTIATION OF A CUSTOMS UNION WITH

GREECE AND RELATED QUESTIONS. (ERSBOLL DESCRIBED EC CONTACTS WITH THE GREEKS HERETOFORE AS "EXPLORATORY TALKS", SAYING THAT SOME IN THE PAST HAVE IMPROPERLY LABELED THEM "NEGOTIATIONS.") ERSBOLL THOUGHT IT PSYCHOLOGICALLY IMPORTANT TO GET THE GREEK ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY.

IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION AS TO HOW THOSE NEGOTIATIONS WERE LIKELY TO GO, ERSBOLL EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE CHANGING ATTITUDE OF SOME OF THE BIGGER MEMBERS TOWARD EC ENLARGEMENT. THE ARE, HE SAID, DEVELOPING MISGIVINGS. HE HIMSELF BELIEVES THAT IN THE FACE OF EARLIER EC PRONOUNCEMENTS ON THE SUBJECT, IT IS TOO LATE FOR EC EVEN TO THINK ABOUT MAINTAINING MEMBERSHIP AT ITS PRESENT SIZE. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT IT WOULD "BE A BAD THING IF THE EC WERE NOW TO ACT HALF-HEARTED ABOUT ENLARGEMENT".

D. CYPRUS - THE COUNCIL WILL HEAR A REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION ON ITS TALKS WITH THE CYPRIOTS. ERSBOLL SAID THAT IF THE TALKS ARE GOING WELL, AS SEEMS TO BE THE CASE, THERE MAY BE NO NEED FOR THE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING IN FEB THAT HE ANTICIPATED WHEN I TALKED TO HIM BEFORE (PARA 3C OF REF B).

D. SPAIN - THE COUNCIL WILL DISCUSS EXPANDING THE TRADE AGREEMENT THAT SPAIN CONCLUDED WITH THE ORIGINAL SIX MEMBERS. ONE OF THE MAJOR PROBLEMS IN CHANGING THE AGREEMENT RESULTS FROM THE FACT THAT SPAIN WANTS SOME COMPENSATION FOR LOSING THE MORE LIBERAL TRADING RELATIONSHIPS IT ENJOYED WITH THE UK AND DENMARK BEFORE THEY WERE MEMBERS. THERE HAS BEEN SOME TALK IN THE EC, ERSBOLL SAID, OF CANCELING THE AGREEMENT WITH SPAIN, BUT HE DESCRIBED CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 COPENH 00561 251731Z

THAT AS AN IMPORPER ACTION FOR THE EC TO TAKE TOWRD A COUNTRY THAT HAS APPLIED FOR MEMBERSHIP.

F. CITRUS FRUITS - THE COUNCIL WILL DISCUSS WAYS IN WHICH THE EC CAN LIVE UP TO ITS PROMISE TO IMPROVE EXISTING CITRUS CONCESSIONS MADE TO MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES. ERSBOLL INDICATED THAT TREATMENT TO BE ACCORDED ISRAEL WAS A PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE POINT.

G. FOOD AID - ERSBOLL DESCRIBED THIS AS "A TECHNICAL MATTER" RELATED TO THE EC CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM.

H. "SUMMERTIME (DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME) - THE DANES AND THE WEST GERMANS HAD HOPED TO ADOPT DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME IN 1978 IN ORDER TO BE IN STEP WITH THE REST OF THE EC. THE WEST GERMANS, HOWEVER, MAY BE UNABLE TO DO SO UNLESS THEY CAN GET THE EAST GERMANS TO GO ALONG. (EAST AND WEST BERLIN TRANSPORTATION TIME-TABLES ARE A MAJOR DIFFICULTY.) IF THE WEST GERMANS ARE UNABLE TO ADOPT DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME, ERSBOLL SAID, THE DANES WILL NOT BE ABLE TO EITHER.

I. STEEL - ERSBOLL STATED THAT THE UK HAS RAISED THE QUESTION OF WHAT EFFECT THE NEGOTIATIONS OF EC AGREEMENTS WITH STEEL EXPORTING COUNTRIES WILL HAVE ON BILATERAL RESTRICTIVE AGREEMENTS PREVIOUSLY NEGOTIATED BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS AND WHICH ARE STILL IN FORCE (ERSBOLL RECALLED THAT SUCH BILATERAL AGREEMENTS ARE PERMITTED UNDER THE EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY TREATY).

DAVIGNON'S ANSWER, ERSBOLL SAID, WAS THAT HE SAW NO PROBLEM BECAUSE NO EC AGREEMENT WOULD BE LESS RESTRICTIVE THAN THE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS NOW IN FORCE. AT THIS JUNCTURE ERSBOLL OBSERVED THAT THE US THUS HAS A POINT WHEN IT STATES THAT THE EC AGREEMENTS "CANNOT HELP BUT BE RESTRICTIVE". "IT WILL BE THE DANISH JOB", ERSBOLL SAID, "TO SEE THAT THE EC LIVES UP TO ITS ANNOUNCED INTENTIONS OF NOT MAKING QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS".

3. IF YOU SHOULD HAVE ANY COMMENTS ON ALL OR ANY OF THE ABOVE POINTS, I WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING THEM BY JAN 31. IN THE MEANTIME, IF ERSBOLL BRINGS ANY OTHER ECONOMIC SUBJECTS TO MY ATTENTION, I SHALL FORWARD THEM TO YOU. AS FOR POLITICAL SUBJECTS, ERSBOLL INDICATED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS WHILE IN BRUSSELS FOR THE FEB 7 COUNCIL MEETING WOULD TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY  
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PAGE 04 COPENH 00561 251731Z

TO DISCUSS MIDDLE EASTERN DEVELOPMENTS.  
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## Message Attributes

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